

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
January 8, 2015
City Hall – Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Brian Knapp
Jon Stehle
Michael Slawski
Jane Albro
Michael Anderson
Michael Breslin

Jeff Ferrell
Joseph Harmon
Kirk Holley
Robert M. Reinsel
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Michael McCarty

Members Absent

Evie Ifantides

Harry Wilbur

Guests

Janet Jaworski, Planning Commission
Leslie Herman, Parks & Recreation Department
Michelle Veresink Richmond, Parks & Recreation Department

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by Chairman Brian Knapp.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adjusted to remove the Eagle Scout presentation on the “Sound Garden” for Green Acres, which has been delayed to February.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Robert M. Reinsel moved to approve, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert seconded. Minutes from the last meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 were approved by unanimous vote.

4. Elections

Knapp resigned from position of Chairman. Rodgers-Rickert moved that Jon Stehle be elected Chairman. Jeff Ferrell seconded. Chairman Stehle was elected by unanimous vote.

Chairman Stehle asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Michael Anderson moved that Michael Slawski be elected Vice Chair. Ferrell seconded. Vice Chairman Slawski was elected by unanimous vote.

5. Statement by Mayor Scott Silverthorne

Mayor Silverthorne stated that he was pleased that PRAB now has a teen representative and he welcomed Michael Breslin to the Advisory Board.

Mayor Silverthorne thanked Knapp for his service on PRAB and as chairman.

6. Old Business

a) PRAB Exemplary Service Award

Knapp stated that Mayor Robert Lederer is thrilled that he has been selected for the award. The plaque was passed around to PRAB members. All members were encouraged to attend the award presentation at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7pm. Knapp reported that previous award winners were also invited to attend.

b) Budget Update

Director Michael McCarty presented the proposed department budget to the City Manager on January 7, 2015. He presented an abridged version of the preliminary presentation to PRAB. Key points included:

- Budget increase of 2.53% requested
- Budget shows 37% cost recovery
- Reclassification of Events/Facilities Superintendent
- Impact of Affordable Care Act
 - Request for 1 FTE for Senior Center & 1 FTE for Cultural Arts
- Public Works overtime for events
- 50th Anniversary of Independence Day Parade
- 8% increase in contributions to Commission on the Arts, City of Fairfax Band Association, and Fall for the Book
- Increase in Fairfax County Public Schools busing costs for day camps
- Additional pre-school camp at Daniels Run
- Advertising design and printing increases
- New Special Events
 - Kitty Pozer Day
- These recommendations are recommendations to the City Manager and do not guarantee that they will make it into the City Manager's proposed draft budget.

Chairman Stehle thanked Director McCarty for his presentation.

Kirk Holley asked about the Cost of Living Adjustment recommendation.

Director McCarty says 1.45% was suggested and they are trying to put in steps. Holley asked if they have checked revenue numbers yet.

Director McCarty explained that they have not received that information yet. Holley asked what percentage of the budget was for staff costs.

Director McCarty responded 70%.

Knapp thanked Director McCarty for the effort to reclassify the Events/Facilities Superintendent position.

7. New Business

a) Department Name Change

Director McCarty stated that the Strategic Plan identified that the department change the name to embrace the Cultural Arts programs offered. Staff need more time to continue to contemplate recommendations for a new Department name and how it may be integrated into the City structure, promotions and marketing. This will also give staff time to hear from Commission on the Arts, PRAB, and School Board. Some suggestions included:

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts and Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC). More suggestions were shared on a handout. McCarty asked to table the decision until the next meeting and welcomed suggestions.

Rodgers-Rickert suggested using the word Community in the name and brought up the question of what culture really means.

Reinsel warned about making the name too long and to carefully consider any proposed acronyms.

8. Parks and Recreation Department Report

a) Draper Drive Playground

Director McCarty presented design by BCI Burke for Draper Drive Playground. He explained that it would be the first barrier-free playground with shade in the City and would be appropriate for ages 2 through 12. Total cost is \$151,000. The playground would be installed in late March.

Knapp thanked Director McCarty and staff for their effort to replace the playground and noted that when the Stafford Park Playground was installed it was one of the first barrier-free playgrounds in the state. With this new Draper Drive Playground, Knapp stated that the City will continue to be at the forefront.

b) Snyder Trail

Director McCarty explained that the bid request was being finalized and would be due in early February. Trail construction should begin in March. Easements are already in place.

c) Old Town Square

Director McCarty explained that work has been moving more slowly because of inclement weather. Upper parking lot by Old Town Hall should be completed by end of January/early February. Grand opening has been scheduled for April 18.

d) New Year Eve Four-Miler

McCarty reported that it went well and there were 1,700 runners.

e) Chocolate Lovers Festival (Feb. 7-8)

Leslie Herman explained that this year there are new activities, including a chocolate historic walk ending at de Clieu, chocolate pie-eating contest and cupcake decorating at Ace Hardware, and the Willy Wonka movie night sponsored by 29 Diner and Ace Hardware. Harley Eye Candy may also be at the festival. Herman explained that they are considering closing University Drive in front of Old Town Hall.

f) Derby-Q (May2)

Herman explained that the event will feature blues music, the Kentucky Derby, Virginia craft breweries, and whiskey tastings.

g) Rock the Block (Fourth Fridays – May through September)

- May 22 – Gonzo's Nose
- June 26 – Southpaws
- July 24 – Reflex
- August 28 – College Group – working with GMU
- September 25 – Almost Journey and 2U

h) Strategic Master Plan

McCarty reported that 12 of 0-2 year strategies have been completed. He noted that the park at Draper Drive will complete several additional goals.

Joseph Harmon noted that he appreciated seeing the numbers and actionable items for the plan.

Chairman Stehle encouraged the Board to consider how we can continue to use the Our Parks Our Future site moving forward.

9. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board – Robert Reinsel

Reinsel reported that the building of bleachers and pressbox at Fairfax High School has been approved, potentially to begin building in the spring.

b) Planning Commission – Joseph Harmon

Harmon reported that they will have a joint session with City Council to consider plan for Oak Knolls. Also, they will be having a meeting to discuss the Fairfax Boulevard plan.

c) Senior Center – Jane Albro

Holiday parties were a success. Fitness Center will open on Saturday and memberships are available.

d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley

Nothing to report.

e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur

No report as Wilbur is not present.

f) NVRPA – Brian Knapp

Knapp reported that the light shows did very well and the lights at Sherwood looked great. On Saturday Northern Virginia will dedicate its 30th park. Wednesday will be NVRPA's first meeting of the year.

10. Matters of the Members

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert shared with the board that there are now wind turbines that look like trees that could be something to consider. She also mentioned that some areas have Dark Parks, where people can enjoy them at night. One of these Dark Parks is being planned for Fairfax County. She also encouraged that everyone should vote for the City of Fairfax in Virginia Living's Best of Northern Virginia.

Chairman Stehle thanked Knapp, the Board, and his family for their support as he takes on the role of Chairman.

11. Adjournment

Rodgers-Rickert moved to end the meeting. Ferrell seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.